

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063116
Inspector	Lucy Chapman
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited
Registered person address	Cheesemans Farmhouse Alland Grange Lane, Manston Ramsgate Kent CT12 5BZ
Responsible individual	Leslie Peter Davenport
Registered manager	Kerri Matthews
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
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Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Children make exceptional progress in the nurturing environment provided within this home. Consistent boundaries offered by caring staff enable children to settle, thrive and develop positive behaviours. Children participate in a range of new and fun experiences; recent trips include Reindeer Land and the science exhibition at Canterbury University.

The home environment is spacious with a homely feel, and good quality décor and furnishings. Children have selected the colours for the decoration of this home, leading to the vibrant paint colours for the walls and superhero wall art. There is a well-equipped games room with Lego, board games and activities with photos of children on recent daytrips displayed on the wall. Decoration of children's bedrooms is of a high quality and to their individual taste. One child said 'I like my bedroom, it's big with One Direction stickers on the wall'.

The Registered Manager of this home is established in her role and is well qualified and experienced. Minor well managed staff change minimised any disruption to children. Careful staff recruitment has resulted in an accomplished staff team who work well together. Staff are well trained; seven staff have completed their NVQ Level 3 and two staff are undertaking this course currently. One staff member said 'I love working here, I love this age group, I feel really happy working here'.

Children in this home develop extremely positively in all areas of their lives. Children who have not previously engaged with education are now attending school successfully and making educational progress. Staff enable children to recognise their progress and areas for continued development. One child said 'I'm super-good at reading now, but I'm still a bit silly at school'. Staff offer educational support to children awaiting school placements and provide the daily stability and routine needed for children to succeed in their new school placement. The manager has

advocated strongly for all children to have access to their pupil premium for additional tuition, maximising the learning and educational outcomes for children in this home. Children have their health needs met and are provided with appropriate medical services, a healthy diet and exercise. Therapeutic support is available, provided by the home, for those children who require this to meet their emotional needs. Children are encouraged to enjoy and achieve through engagement with clubs linked to their interests including, Badgers, Cubs, swimming, chess and steel drum club.

Staff listen to children and their views impact decision making. There is a weekly discussion group where children share their ideas, including choosing the weekly menu plan, holidays and daytrips. This forum also enables discussion and constructive resolution of issues within the home. For example, one child was unhappy with how others were leaving the shower; this issue was resolved via discussion. Constructive group discussion promotes good relationships between children and prevents resentment and anger forming. Children are involved in big and small decisions within this home including staff recruitment, where children spend time with all potential candidates and give feedback. Listening to the wishes and feelings of children is an outstanding strength of this home.

There is a homely and nurturing atmosphere within this home. Children coming home from school are warmly welcomed and spend time together with staff doing their homework before playtime. Each child receives regular keywork sessions and these address any significant events from the child's week, enabling them to reflect on any behavioural issues. Each child also has a reward chart with stickers displayed on the wall, with individualised obtainable goals linked to financial reward. A 'good as gold book' is also in place requiring children to tick if they have been good each day, leading to a comic reward. This enables children to think with a member of staff about their behaviour each day and to reflect upon their achievements and where they may be able to make behavioural improvement.

Children in this home are empowered to take ownership of their feelings and behaviour. Recently 'sorry sessions' have been introduced where children can acknowledge their behaviour and say sorry to others. The children embraced this idea and asked to add in 'thank you sessions' to allow them to publically thank others. Children have also opted to take on a small household task each day, such as hovering, polishing or helping to prepare dinner. Staff support chore time and children regard it as a positive experience. This allows children to develop useful life skills and contributes to them feeling ownership of the home.

Children are safe within this home. All staff receive safeguarding training and effective safeguarding systems are in place. Pastoral visits from an independent visitor give children the opportunity to voice any concerns regarding their care, providing additional monitoring of children's wellbeing. Health and safety monitoring is in place and children, including those newly placed, were aware of fire evacuation procedures. Children's case files are clear and well-ordered with up to date key

information. Each child has in place a comprehensive and regularly updated placement plan, risk assessment and behaviour plan. Restraint used in the home is only after unsuccessful de-escalation and to prevent harm. The manager methodically monitors restraint records on a weekly basis. This careful monitoring highlights behaviour patterns and enables support provision for children according to their behavioural needs.

The Registered Manager oversees the transition of children into and on from this home and careful individualised planning is evident. For children moving on to foster care staff accompany them to visit their new carers and empower children to be involved in their transition planning. After children move on staff keep in touch and children are able to return for visits. Staff work with children according to their care plan from their arrival at this home. One child, when asked about hopes for his future said 'I would like to go on to foster care, I might be going in the summer'. Staff work with children to meet their present and future needs and as such children are equipped, practically and emotionally, to make a successful transition to their new homes when they are ready to move on.

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for a maximum of six children, who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties. Children living in the home are able to access education through separately registered provision which is managed by the same organisation. Therapy or counselling is also available to children if this is appropriate.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	outstanding
27/03/2014	Interim	good progress
06/11/2013	Full	outstanding
26/03/2013	Interim	good progress

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.